

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 04487 162252Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 EB-07 AGR-05 AGRE-00 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5093

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDEMANN FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, CS

SUBJECT: SUGGESTED HANDLING OF MEAT ISSUE DURING SEPTEMBER
19-20 VISIT

1. YOU WILL BE AWARE FROM OUR PREVIOUS REPORTING THAT THERE IS DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT HERE OVER USG INABILITY TO FIND WAY TO ACCOMMODATE GOCR REQUEST FOR HIGHER LEVEL OF MEAT EXPORTS THIS YEAR. AMBASSADOR YEUTTER'S VERY CANDID FIRM AND AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT, DURING HIS RECENT VISIT HERE, TO EFFECT THAT THERE WILL BE NO INCREASE THIS YEAR WAS A SHOCK TO GOCR AND COSTA RICAN PUBLIC, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE GOCR HAD CONTINUED TO BELIEVE THERE WAS A COMMITMENT BY THE SECRETARY TO PROVIDE AN INCREASE. I THINK AMBASSADOR YEUTTER'S STATEMENT HAS EFFECTIVELY KILLED ALL HOPE HERE, BUT THERE IS A DEEP FEELING OF BITTERNESS OVER WHAT IS PERCEIVED AS USG FAILURE TO DELIVER ON ITS PROMISES.

2. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IN AMPLIFICATION OF QS AND AS WE SENT EARLIER, I RECOMMEND THAT YOU RESPOND TO ANY PRESS OR OFFICIAL GOCR QUERIES RE "THE KISSINGER COMMITMENT" WITH A STATEMENT THAT LEAVES NO DOUBT ABOUT THE TIME AND ATTENTION THE SECRETARY DEVOTED TO THIS QUESTION. I WOULD ADVISE AGAINST ACKNOWLEDGING TO PRESS THAT THERE WAS IN FACT A COMMITMENT BY THE SECRETARY. HOWEVER I THINK IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO MAKE
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PAGE 02 SAN JO 04487 162252Z

CLEAR THAT THE SECRETARY WAS SYMPATHETIC TO COSTA RICA'S PROBLEM

AND EXPLORED EVERY ANGLE TO SEE WHETHER AN INCREASE MIGHT BE GRANTED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF OUR LEGISLATION AND THE GLOBAL MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM. THE SAME POINT MIGHT BE MADE TO ODUBER AND TO FACIO, IF THEY RAISE THE SUBJECT, AND IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO STATE OUR REGRET THAT WE COULD NOT DELIVER AN INCREASE.

3. I WOULD STRONGLY RECOMMEND AGAINST MENTIONING THE POSSIBILITY OF A SUB-REGIONAL QUOTA FOR CENTRAL AMERICA NEXT YEAR. WHILE SUCH ACTION WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE WELCOMED WHEN IT TAKES PLACE, TO MENTION IT NOW WOULD BE TAKEN AS AN EFFORT TO FULFILL A PROMISE WITH ANOTHER PROMISE, AND WOULD BRING EVEN GREATER DISAPPOINTMENT SHOULD REGIONAL QUOTA NOT MATERIALIZE. TODMAN

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